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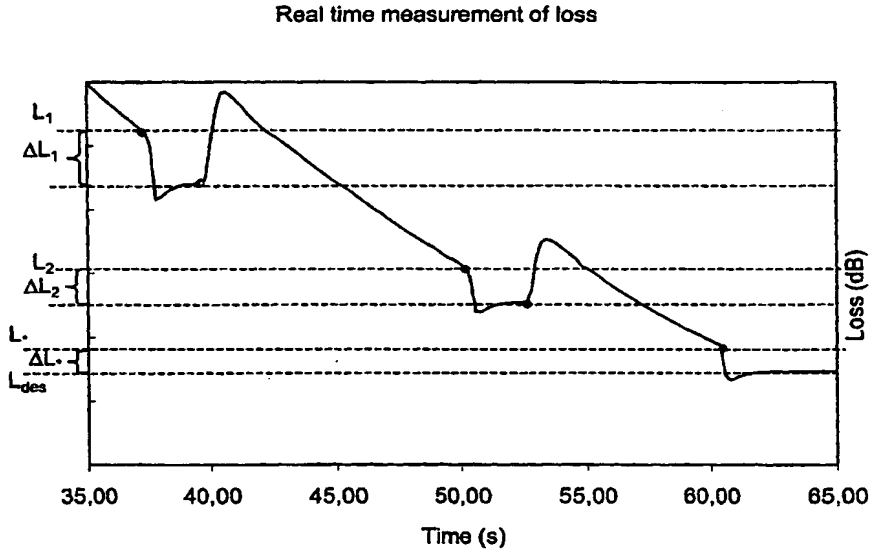
(54) Title: ATTENUATOR



(57) Abstract: In the manufacture of an optical attenuator having a desired value of the optical loss end regions of two optical fibers are placed with an offset in the transverse direction in relation to each other and having their end surface at each other. Thereafter the region at end surfaces is heated to make the ends melt to each other and the heating is then further continued. To achieve the desired loss in the finished attenuating splice the further heating is stopped for an optical loss exceeding the desired loss by a calculated value. This value can be obtained from measurements in real time of the loss for the splice during the continued heating. The measurements can be made at the beginning and end of an interrupt of the further heating. An attenuator manufactured in this way obtains an attenuation that accurately aggres with the desired value.

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— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: G02B 6/255
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: G02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9524665 A (TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON), 14 Sept 1995 (14.09.95) --	1,7
A	EP 0594996 A2 (SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT), 4 May 1994 (04.05.94) --	1,7
A	EP 0690318 A1 (FUJITSU LIMITED), 3 January 1996 (03.01.96) -- --------	1,7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
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Information on patent family members

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